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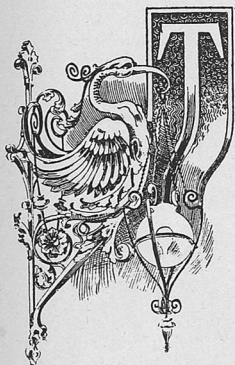
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Furniture and Furnishings.

THE MODERN AMERICAN HOUSE.

BY EDWARD LEE YOUNG.

ARCHITECT FOR THE INTERIORS.



THE many restrictions surrounding New York property, the laws enacted to secure safety, and the gradual but surely increasing value of the ground, has developed a building so distinctly American that they have been justly named "American Basement Houses," to distinguish them from the English type. "In what respect does the American differ from the English Basement Houses?" is often asked, and to thoroughly understand the answer, one must remember that it is a strong American trait to care for "first impressions," and in this particular the English Basement houses,

as we know them, suffer by comparison.

The English house is entered through a narrow hall at one side. The front room, on the basement floor, crowds the hall into the smallest possible space, and neither the room nor the hall are at all satisfactory. The American Basement house sometimes has the narrow hall, but it is given over to the service entrance, while the owner and his friends enter directly into the middle of the reception-hall, which is often the full width of the house, as you will see by referring to the plans of these imposing dwellings. In this event the servants enter from the outside beneath the basement floor, and come up into the laundry beyond.

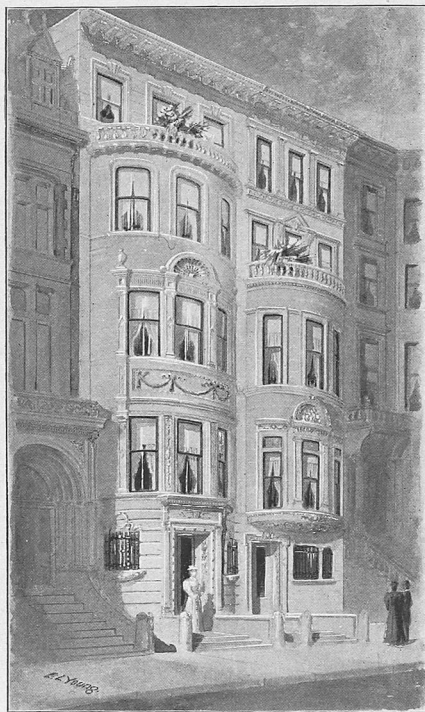
Hitherto, the northern part of this great city has reaped the benefit of this style of house, as one after another, one better than another, has crept into existence, tempting many people from their commonplace homes in a good location, to move into one of these American basement houses, to enjoy the comforts and conveniences of life, but in a new section, where they are not known and away from the many friends of years.

To illustrate the American Basement houses, the accompanying sketches of Nos. 12 and 14 West 54th Street, as can be seen, are the best examples of modern work—imposing in their proportions, with that quiet

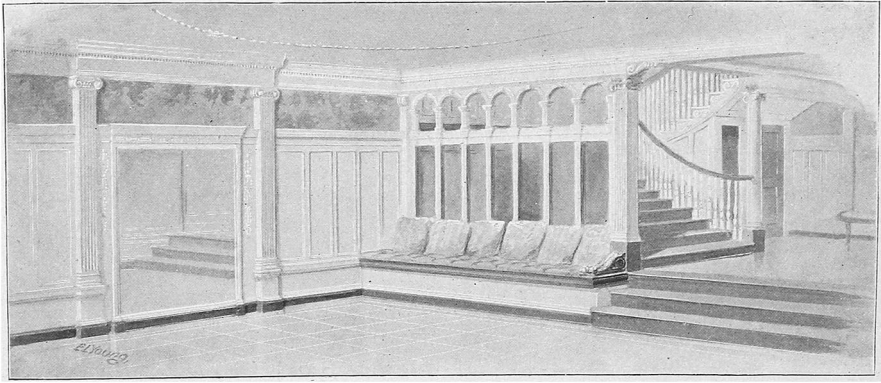
dignity of style in every little detail of the exteriors, as well as the interiors, that the educated and refined have sought for in vain.

Built of light grey Indiana limestone, carved in the style of the French Renaissance, in that crisp, sharp way which shows the master's hand in every little detail.

The interiors of these houses keep the promise given by the exterior, and no disappointment meets one's gaze as, passing through the vestibule finished with



THE MODERN AMERICAN HOUSE. THE EXTERIOR.



THE MODERN AMERICAN HOUSE. THE RECEPTION-HALL.

dark, rich mahogany, one enters the Grand Reception-Hall, finished in enamel and pale colors, reflecting the light and pleasing the eyes with its proportions and detail.

The accompanying sketch shows the Reception-Hall and the staircase to the floor above. The staircase is made of mahogany, as are also the baseboards, the mantel-shelf and the seats in the reception-hall.

The foyer hall is designed in the Adam style, or rather the style of the Brothers Adam. They were architects in London, 1778 to 1822, and the first Napoleon did not hesitate to steal their ideas bodily and transport them to Paris, where they have since been known as the "Empire Style."

The foyer hall is trimmed with cherry, enameled a cream white, with the high lights of the decoration gilded and burnished. The same mahogany vases, together with the cap mouldings, as are used on the floor below. The other rooms on this floor, such as the drawing-room, library and dining-room, are decorated

in their respective styles, as follows: The drawing-room is finished in Prima Vera, in the Louis XVI. style, the library of mahogany in the Italian Renaissance style, the dining-room in English oak in Old Italian style.

The plaster decorative effects and the electric effects are charming, and a view of these houses will convince anyone of the wisdom in our selection of remarkable examples of "The Modern American House."

DECORATIVE NOTES.

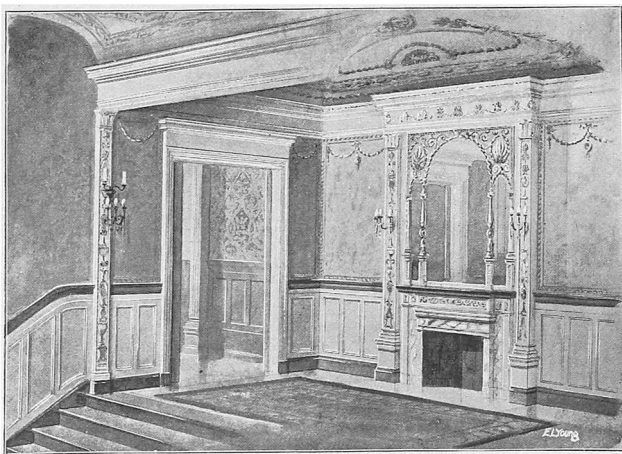
THERE is nothing more decorative for the evening dance than an artistic stairway. For this purpose the clematis vine, which is found on the highways in summer, can be used to advantage. On the stair landing group together as many palms and tropical plants as possible. On the stair rail tie with thick green cord the largest of ferns, and group them with smaller ones in artistic lines. Then add the clematis or any other flowering vine that will make a goodly show, the great point being that ferns, flowers and vines should be as fresh as possible.

An ordinary lantern is quite a decorative bit for a porch or piazza if fastened against the wall of the house, near the main door.

When a piazza *file* is in question, vines should cover the front door. At each corner there should be pots of flowers. Japanese lanterns can be hung from the ceiling of the porch, and at one corner a small table with punch-bowl and glasses.

An excellent rug for a porch is two or three yards of ingrain carpet in dull red tones. It can be fringed at each end, and lined so as to make it heavy.

To decorate a pier glass for a social function bank up the lower part with palms, so that a good foundation of green is accomplished. Then tack from the top of the mirror to the bottom four thin wires, fastening them securely at both ends. Select some



THE MODERN AMERICAN HOUSE. THE FOYER HALL.

vine in which the blossoms are plenty, but of a delicate nature, and twine each wire in thick profusion. On the top of the glass festoon greens to the ceiling. This treatment is strikingly artistic, and adds to the general ornamentation of the room.

A novelty among flower-holders is shaped like a huge tumbler. It is made of open-work silver or gold finish, is supplied with small handles, and contains a cup of colored glass. In itself it is a handsome and decorative object. When filled with flowers it makes an effective centerpiece.

A sofa-pillow seen lately, evidently designed for a yacht, was of blue denim, with several emblematical devices appliquéd on, some in relief. A rope served as a finish around the edges, and this was fastened in knots at the corners, with fringed-out ends. It was thoroughly nautical in every particular, and easily and cheaply made.

Miniature stew-pans, with a lid and a long handle on one side, made of aluminum, are being put on the market for individual terrapin-dishes. Price, \$1.15.

Some double-faced cretonne (French) is now seen of charming designs. It is something new, and saves lining.



SEEN IN THE SHOPS.

BY ELLEN DREW.

ATTING, so long associated with midsummer, has been introduced among some articles of furniture. Chairs, tables, lounges are made of matting, a fine, firm quality, taking the place of the usual fabrics with which these articles are upholstered. They look delightfully cool and comfortable, and certainly are more inviting during the dog days than any fuzzy stuff that

not only looks hot and uncomfortable, but is actually so. The woodwork of these pieces of summer furniture is made to resemble bamboo, and is stained a greenish tone—called malachite—that is simply an emphatic echo of the color of the matting, and, while they look light, are, in reality, quite substantial. One very comfortable high-back armchair, of good dimensions, that was particularly attractive, was marked only \$10.00.

Ladies who delight in fancy work and during the summer months indulge in the occupation on the piazza, will be gratified to know that a special chair has been manufactured for their convenience. The chair in question is a high-back armchair, made of reeds, and has a large pocket built on the right side, large enough to contain a goodly quantity of working materials. This attachment secures the worsteds and embroidery silks, and prevents them from rolling away and becoming soiled.

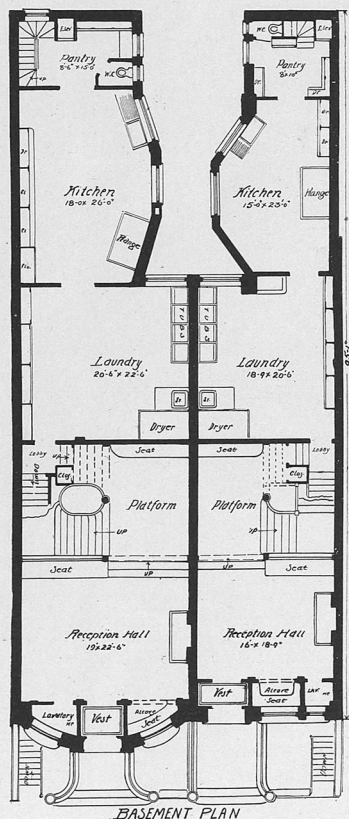
A very inviting rustic chair, of the tête-à-tête variety, was seen at a large department store. Price, \$8.50.

The traveling telescope, formerly made of canvas, is now made of a flat split straw braid. They are woven closely and firmly, fit snugly together, one in the other, and their weight and price a bagatelle—only eighty cents for one of good size. They are easy to carry, being so light.

A new trifle that proves to be very serviceable is the Falls heater. It is in shape like a diminutive stovepipe, with a short piece at right angles, attached to the middle on both sides. It is to be placed over a lamp chimney to radiate the heat. It is attached to an upright rod, securely fastened on a round flat base, and may be moved to any height to accommodate itself to the lamp. The heat passing directly through it and the two arms, it throws out an immense quantity of heat, quite sufficient to warm a medium-sized room if there is a sudden drop in the thermometer. Price, \$1.00.

A patent combination egg-boiler and timer that works automatically can be had in either copper or nickel-plated. The eggs are placed in a perforated saucer and lowered into the boiling water. The dial on the handle is set for any number of minutes, and when the time expires the saucer of eggs rises up out of the water. It needs no watching, as it is self-regulating. Price, \$6.00.

An article for the nursery that will be hailed with delight by many whose aching backs testify to the wearisome task of bathing the baby with his tub on the floor, is an arrangement made of stout wire to hold the tub at a convenient height from the floor. Beneath the tub is a small basin and soap-dish, and an arm to hold towels is pulled out at the side. The tub, basin and soap-dish are of tin, painted white inside and either red or blue outside. Price, \$6.00.



THE MODERN AMERICAN HOUSE.